



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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### SITUATION REPORT

April 24, 2002 Southeast Missouri Severe Storms Event

Report #2

April 26, 2002

Around 4:00 p.m., 24 April 2002, a line of thunderstorms with high winds, damaging hail and tornadoes stretched from just south of St. Louis through most of South East Missouri. There were numerous reports of tornadoes that developed from this front as it passed through the area. Governor Bob Holden declared a State of Emergency for Southeast Missouri Counties following these severe spring storms.

#### County Reports:

##### Butler County:

Governor Holden took an aerial tour of the affected area along with other State Officials

City of Poplar Bluff and surrounding area, the American Red Cross damage assessments report:

- 30 homes were destroyed
- 16 additional homes have major damage
- 150 minor damaged homes The most heavily hit area was the Pine Cone Estates Subdivision.

##### Carter County:

City of Elsimore and surrounding area, preliminary damage assessments indicate:

- 50 homes - major damage to destroyed (some are mobile homes)
- 10 businesses destroyed
- 3 injuries requiring hospitalization
- lots of trees down
- Highway 60 and Route A hit the worst

## **Carter County (Continued)**

### Special Economic Impact

- Piney Woods Truck Plaza and Cedar Lodge - Destroyed
- Texaco Plaza - Destroyed

City of Van Buren and surrounding area, damage is listed as:

- 12 homes - roof and shingle damage
- 3 businesses - roof and shingle damage
- 50 homes out of power
- Tree damage is extensive
- 12 Mobile Homes (in RV Park) destroyed

**Madison County:** American Red Cross reported :

City of Marquand damage is listed as:

- Commercial area with their fire station (destroyed) & city hall (major damage) .
- Businesses - one major damage, two with minor damage, one not-for-profit enterprise suffered minor damage.
- Marquand also had two homes major damage, three homes moderate damage and ten homes with minor damage.

Twelve Mile had a few homes affected:

- One mobile home destroyed, five homes major damage and four homes with minor damage.
- Power is still off and phone service is spotty (from ARC reports).

### **SEMA actions:**

SEMA officials dispatched three preliminary disaster assessment teams to assist local officials in requesting aid. They are expected to be joined by Federal Emergency Management Agency team members to start the formal process towards a potential Federal Declaration this afternoon.

SEMA personnel will escort United States Representative Jo Ann Emerson on a tour of the affected area in Butler County.

### **State Agency actions:**

Missouri State Highway Patrol aerial assets were used to get an overall view of the damaged areas. Patrolmen from Troops E and G were assisting local authorities in providing security at damage sites throughout Southeast Missouri.

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) facilities, equipment and personnel are being used to assist local Highway Departments in road clearance and debris removal.

### **Volunteer Organization actions:**

American Red Cross had despatched two disaster action teams (DAT) to the area. One to Poplar Bluff and one to Elsinoire, Missouri. The two shelters that they had opened reported no one availed themselves of these services, however, the shelter in Carter County remained opened as a feeding center. In addition ARC has activated two additional Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) to supplement the one already on-site from Cape Girardeau.

AmeriCorp has a five member team working in Elsinoire (Carter County) and team of ten is working in Marquand (Madison County). They are assisting in clearing roads.

Salvation Army is running the feeding center in Madison County.

7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist, Church World Service, United Methodist, and other agencies are deploying staff to Poplar Bluff.

Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MOVED), the Missouri Disaster Recovery Partnership and SEA are convening an emergency meeting for human services agencies from the voluntary, private and government sectors to coordinate response and immediate recovery activities in the affected areas.

### **Federal actions:**

FEMA Region VII provided a liaison officer to the State Emergency Operations Center on April 25, 2002. Today FEMA will provide teams to participate with the State of Missouri in a joint preliminary damage assessment in the affected areas.

Small Business Administration personnel are en route to the area and will participate with the State of Missouri/FEMA in the joint preliminary damage assessment in the affected areas.

### **Forecast:**

National Weather Service indicates that the most of Missouri will sunny early with clouds building up later this afternoon. The southern tier of counties will receive rain today. The rain will spread northward with a possibility of some thunderstorms on Saturday. Sunday is forecasted to be clear with a high in the high 60's.

**(NOTE:** The next situation report will be issued on Monday, April 29, 2002, unless the situation changes to warrant a more current report)